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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of forming a protective film on a surface of
2 a large-sized product, such as an automobile, finished with a
3 sprayed coating by applying a strippable paint to a surface of
4 the sprayed coating, said method comprising the steps of:

5 removing contaminations from the surface of said sprayed
6 coating of said product; and

7 then applying the strippable paint so as to form the
8 protective film.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of removing
2 contaminations consists of a washing step for washing the
3 surface of the sprayed coating of said product and a subsequent
4 dehydrating step.

3 3. The method of claim 2, wherein said washing step is
4 carried out, using warm water.

4 4. The method of claim 2, wherein said dehydrating step is
5 carried out by making use of air blow.

5 5. The method of claim 4, wherein said air blow makes use
6 of hot air.

1 6. The method of claim 2, wherein said washing step makes
2 use of warm water, and wherein said dehydrating step makes use
3 of hot air.

1 7. The method of claim 2, wherein said step for washing
2 the surface of the sprayed coating of said product is shower
3 washing such as washing of an automobile, using shower.

1 8. A method of forming a protective film on a surface of
2 a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating, such as
3 an automobile, by applying a strippable paint to a surface of
4 said sprayed coating, said method comprising the steps of:

5 applying said strippable paint to said product;

6 preliminarily drying said strippable paint applied to said
7 product; and

8 then non-preliminarily drying said product.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of
preliminarily drying said strippable paint makes use of
infrared irradiation.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of non-
preliminarily drying said product makes use of hot air drying.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein said step of non-
preliminarily drying said product is carried out at a
temperature of 60 to 90°C.

12. The method of claim 8, wherein said strippable paint
is a water-soluble strippable paint, and wherein said
strippable paint is applied within a space isolated from
surroundings at a temperature of about 10-25°C at a humidity of
about 50-90%.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said strippable paint
is a water-soluble strippable paint, and wherein said step of
preliminarily drying said protective film formed by applying
~~said water-soluble strippable paint is carried out by~~

5 ~~irradiating infrared radiation having a wavelength of about 2~~
6 ~~to 4 μm for about 30 to 60 seconds.~~

1 ~~Apparatus~~
2 14. A machine for forming a protective film on a surface
3 of a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating ~~such~~
4 as an automobile by applying a strippable paint to a surface of
5 said sprayed coating, ~~Apparatus~~ said ~~machine~~ comprising:
6

5 an application booth for applying ~~said~~ strippable paint to
6 said product;

7 a preliminary drying furnace for preliminarily drying the
8 strippable paint applied to said product; and

9 a non-preliminary drying furnace for non-preliminarily
drying said product already preliminarily dried.

15. The machine of claim 14, wherein said preliminary
drying furnace is an infrared drying furnace.

16. The machine of claim 14, wherein said non-preliminary
drying furnace is a hot air drying furnace.

17. A method of forming a protective film on a surface of
a product finished with a sprayed coating and having an outer
coating surface provided with holes for ejecting liquid or
4 equipped with components whose airtightness has been enhanced
5 by sealing members or the like and to which a strippable paint
6 is not applied such as an automobile, by spraying said
7 strippable paint against said product, said method comprising
8 the steps of:

9 ~~masking a region with a masking material on said sprayed~~

10 coating surface, said region being wider than an unapplied
11 region to which the strippable paint is not to be applied;
12 spraying said strippable paint against said coating
13 surface of said product including said unapplied region to form
14 a film;

15 peeling said masking material from said unapplied region
16 containing said holes or components; and

17 applying said strippable paint to unapplied regions
18 remaining around said holes or components so as to repair said
19 film of said strippable paint.

18. A method of forming a protective film on a surface of
a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating such as
an automotive body by applying a strippable paint to a surface
of said sprayed coating, said method comprising the steps of:

washing away contaminations such as dust, dirty water, and
rainwater from said surface of said coating of said product;

subsequently applying said strippable paint;

preliminarily drying said product to which said strippable
paint has been applied; and

then non-preliminarily drying said product.

19. A machine for forming a protective film on a surface
of a large-sized product finished with a sprayed coating such
as an automobile by applying a strippable paint to a surface of
said sprayed coating, said machine comprising:

a pretreatment device including a washing device for

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6 washing away contaminations such as dust, dirty water, and
7 rainwater from said surface of said coating of said product and
8 a dehydrating device;

9 an application booth for applying said strippable paint,
10 said booth being located contiguous with said pretreatment
11 device;

12 a preliminary drying furnace for preliminarily drying the
13 strippable paint applied to said product; and

14 a non-preliminary drying furnace for non-preliminarily
15 drying said product already preliminarily dried.

20. A method for forming a protective film on a large
paint-finished product such as an automobile including a step
of applying strippable paint, comprising a step of coating
strippable paint on a painted surface of the large paint-
finished product after a step of painting the large paint-
finished product.

21. A method for forming a protective film on a surface
of a large-sized product, such as an automobile, finished with
a sprayed coating according to claim 1 or claim 17, further
comprising a step of coating strippable paint on a painted
surface of the product after a painting step of painting the
product.

22. A method for forming a protective film on a large
paint-finished product such as an automobile according to claim
20 or claim 21, wherein a step after the painting step is an

4 assembly step of mounting an engine and functional parts and
5 the like and a step after this assembly step is a strippable
6 paint coating step.

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1 23. A method for forming a protective film on a large
2 paint-finished product such as an automobile according to claim
3 22, wherein anti-scratch cover fitting and removal steps are
provided before and after the assembly step.

1 24. A method for forming a protective film on a large
2 paint-finished product such as an automobile according to claim
3 22, wherein a step after the strippable paint coating step
following the assembly step is a completed product inspection
step.

25. A method for forming a protective film on a large
paint-finished product such as an automobile according to claim
20 or claim 21, wherein a step after the painting step is a
strippable paint coating step and an assembly step of mounting
an engine and functional parts and the like is disposed after
the strippable paint coating step.

26. A method for forming a protective film on a large
paint-finished product such as an automobile according to claim
3 25, wherein a step following the assembly step is a finished
4 product inspection step.

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